



State of Connecticut

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STATE CAPITOL**

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Labor and Public Employees Committee
February 24, 2015

Testimony in support of H.B. 6666 AN ACT INCREASING AND INDEXING THE PREVAILING WAGE THRESHOLDS and S.B. 114 AN ACT INCREASING THE PREVAILING WAGE THRESHOLD FOR MUNICIPAL PROJECTS.

Senator Winfield, Representative Tercyak, Senator Hwang, Representative Rutigliano and the entire membership of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, thank you for allowing me to testify before you this evening in support of H.B. 6666 - *AN ACT INCREASING AND INDEXING THE PREVAILING WAGE THRESHOLDS* and S.B. 114 - *AN ACT INCREASING THE PREVAILING WAGE THRESHOLD FOR MUNICIPAL PROJECTS*. These bills aim to bring economic relief to both the state and municipalities by requiring a higher threshold for the prevailing wage to be applied to public works projects.

In order for the prevailing wage to be applied, this legislation would require that a one million dollar threshold be met, or exceeded, for both new construction and remodeling public works projects. Enacting the prevailing wage without the million dollar threshold has been slowing down progress on public works projects and will continue to have that ill effect due to inflation. This new threshold would immediately decrease financial strains on Connecticut and its municipalities.

The legislation would also allow this threshold to be revisited on an annual basis. This threshold should be adjusted, based on inflation. Consequently, the bill would require the legislature's approval of the threshold requirement creating an indexing process. This indexing process would provide a guide of how much to raise the threshold based on inflation, ultimately yielding a prevailing wage that is reflective of the business climate.

In light of these reasons, I would encourage you and your colleagues to support these bills.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Regards,

Lezlye Zupkus State
Representative, 89th District